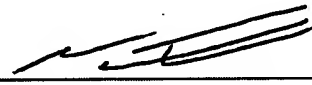
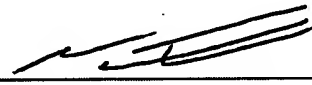
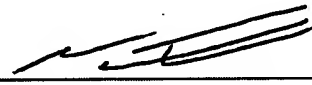


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PTO/SB/33 (07-05)

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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional) YOR920030406US1 (8728-649)									
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on <u>March 13, 2006</u> Signature _____ Typed or printed name <u>Nathaniel T. Wallace</u>		Application Number 10/733,210	Filed December 10, 2003								
		First Named Inventor Robert John Allen									
		Art Unit 2825	Examiner Dinh, Paul								
<p>Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.</p> <p>This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.</p> <p>The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.</p> <p>I am the</p> <table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.</td><td> _____ Signature</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)</td><td>_____ Nathaniel T. Wallace Typed or printed name</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record.      48,909 Registration number _____</td><td>_____ 516-692-8888 Telephone number</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____</td><td>_____ March 13, 2006 Date</td></tr></table> <p>NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Total of _____ forms are submitted.</p>				<input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.	 _____ Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)	_____ Nathaniel T. Wallace Typed or printed name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record.      48,909 Registration number _____	_____ 516-692-8888 Telephone number	<input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____	_____ March 13, 2006 Date
<input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.	 _____ Signature										
<input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)	_____ Nathaniel T. Wallace Typed or printed name										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record.      48,909 Registration number _____	_____ 516-692-8888 Telephone number										
<input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____	_____ March 13, 2006 Date										

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



Patent Application

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Allen et al. DOCKET: YOR920030406US1 (8728-649)  
SERIAL NO: 10/733,210 GROUP ART UNIT: 2825  
FILED: December 10, 2003 EXAMINER: Dinh, Paul  
FOR: **FRAMEWORK FOR HIERARCHICAL VLSI DESIGN**

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Examiner:

In response to the Advisory Action dated February 2, 2006, Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request. This request is being filed with a Notice of Appeal and a Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review Form (PTO/SB/33).

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **March 13, 2006**.

Dated:

*March 13, 2006*

*Melithza Rodriguez*  
Melithza Rodriguez

## **REMARKS**

Please consider the following reasons for this Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review.

Claims 1-12 and 16-30 are pending and stand rejected in the above-referenced application. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

Claims 1, 16, and 28 are the pending independent claims. Only objections and rejections pertinent to Claims 1, 16, and 28 are addressed here.

Claims 1, 16, and 28 have been objected, wherein the Examiner suggested that the phrase “outputting a transformed hierarchical VLSI design” is not clearly described in the specification.

Respectfully, outputting a transformed hierarchical VLSI design is described at, among other places, page 6, lines 3-6, and page 45 lines 18-20. Further, an illustrative example is given at page 7, line 20 to page 8, lines 3, for example, “the isomorphism of the processed hierarchical graph is performed 309 and the processed hierarchical graph is stored in a corresponding database.” Given the foregoing exemplary portions of the disclosure, Claims 1, 16, and 28 are believed to have clear support in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.75. Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 has been objected to wherein the Examiner suggested that the phrase “a more operation, a split operation or a merge operation” is an incomplete claim structure as the object of the operations is not claimed.

Claim 28 claims, *inter alia*, “representing a structure of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design as a graph comprising design objects; specifying a transformation behavior

applied to the design objects; processing the graph top-down beginning with a root cell of the graph to perform the transformation behavior on the hierarchical very large scale integrated design, wherein the transformation behavior resolves a boundary condition of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design by performing a move operation, a split operation or a merge operation to adjust the structure of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design.”

It is clear from Claim 28 that a structure of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design is represented as a graph comprising design objects, and that the graph is processed by performing a move operation, a split operation or a merge operation. Thus, the move, split and merge operations are performed on the graph representing the hierarchical very large scale integrated design. The Examiner’s reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 16-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Russell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,628). The Examiner stated essentially that Russell teaches all the limitations of Claims 1-12 and 16-30.

Claims 1 and 16 claim, *inter alia*, “specifying a transformation behavior applied to the design objects; processing, top-down, the graph to perform the transformation behavior on the hierarchical very large scale integrated design; and outputting a transformed hierarchical very large scale integrated design.” Claim 28 claims, *inter alia*, “specifying a transformation behavior applied to the design objects; processing the graph top-down beginning with a root cell of the graph to perform the transformation behavior on the hierarchical very large scale integrated design, wherein the transformation behavior resolves a boundary condition of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design by performing a move operation, a split operation or a merge operation to adjust the structure of the hierarchical very large scale integrated design; and outputting a transformed hierarchical very large scale integrated design.”

Russell teaches methods for VLSI circuit design checking (see col. 6, lines 26-37). Russell does not teach, “processing, top-down, the graph to perform the transformation behavior on the hierarchical very large scale integrated design” as claimed in Claims 1 and 16 and essentially as claimed in Claim 28. Russell teaches a top-down search in building a list of shape instances (LISA) (see col. 22, lines 14-28). Russell’s top-down search for shape instances does not perform a transformation behavior, essentially as claimed in Claims 1, 16, and 28; the building of a LISA has no effect on the subject hierarchical very large scale integrated design and is a process for merely determining information from the hierarchical very large scale integrated design. Further, according to Russell, processing (building of the LISA) occurs in a bottom-up method. For example, see Figures 55 and 56 wherein after a search has been performed at 5502, a graph is modified, e.g., deleting a subgraph, by traversing an ancestor path 5628 (see col. 31 lines 39-41 and col. 32 lines 4-8). Traversing the ancestor path is a bottom-up processing beginning with leaf nodes. Russell does not teach, “processing, top-down, the graph to perform the transformation behavior on the hierarchical very large scale integrated design” as claimed in Claims 1 and 16 and essentially as claimed in Claim 28. Therefore, Russell fails to teach all the limitations of Claims 1, 16, and 28.

In view of the above, Applicant’s believe there is clear error in the rejection of Claims 1, 16, and 28 in view of Russell. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the forgoing reasons, the present application, including Claims 1-12 and 16-30, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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